

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Temple Parks and Leisure Services
Kristi Sykora, Marketing Coordinator
(254) 298-5586, ksykora@templetx.gov

Program Encourages Residents to Identify Outstanding Trees in Temple

(Temple) – The Legacy Tree program is designed to identify and promote outstanding trees in Temple. Trees are very beneficial to the community. They remove pollutants from the air, they help reduce run off after rain storms, when planted or growing in the right spots they can reduce electric consumption by helping to keep your home or office cooler during the summer months, and they beautify our city.

A Legacy Tree is defined as a tree or stand of trees that due to its age, size, species, quality or historic association is of landmark importance and its retention as such will not unreasonably interfere with the use of the property on which it is located.

“The Legacy Tree program was started three years ago by the City’s Tree Advisory Board as a way to recognize outstanding trees in Temple. The history of the importance of trees to Temple goes back to when W. Goodrich Jones convinced the state of Texas to begin its annual Arbor Day recognition,” said Val Roming, Parks and Leisure Services Arborist. “There are several categories that a person can choose to nominate his or her tree – or another person’s tree.”

Legacy Tree applications must fit into one of five categories: Heritage Tree, Landmark Tree, Parkway Resource Trees, Champion Tree, or Preservation Grove.

- **Heritage Tree** – Trees that are 50 years or older or have a connection to some historic event, building, district, or were planted by a historically significant individual.
- **Landmark Tree** – Trees that are unusual or have a very high aesthetic quality. They can be unusual due to: large size for that species, special and intact aesthetic form, unusual shape not normally seen in most trees, very interesting flower and/or branching patterns, or a species of tree that rarely occurs in Temple.

*Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department
1909 Curtis B. Elliott Drive • Temple, Texas 76501
Phone: (254) 298-5690 • Fax: (254) 298-5541*

- **Parkway Resource Tree** – Planted groups of trees in public rights-of-way, public parking lots, or trail with a consistent design theme.
- **Preservation Grove** – naturally occurring trees in a grove consisting of at least six trees grouped in close proximity (within a ¼ acre area) with trunks closer together than 100 feet that are of the same species or are very similar in form. The trees shall be native or naturalized or endemic and surviving without intervention or supplemental watering.
- **Champion Tree** – This category will identify and recognize the largest living tree of its species located within the city limits of Temple. The trees will be measured for height, circumference of the trunk, and the average width of the crown spread.

“We only have six Champion Trees identified – Live Oak, Pecan, Bald Cypress, American Elm, Mulberry, and Magnolia. That means there are a lot of species of trees not represented such as Red Oak, Sycamore, Bur Oak, Sweetgum, Red Bud, Chinquapin Oak, Chinaberry, Soapberry, Cedar Elm, and even Hackberry – so the door is wide open for nominations,” said Roming.

You can view an interactive map of all Temple Legacy Trees at www.TempleTrees.org.

It is free to nominate a tree, we just ask that you have the property owner’s permission. Nominations are reviewed by the City of Temple Tree Advisory Board.

“I think there is a misconception that there are not any noteworthy trees located in Temple and that is far from the truth. Just driving around and knowing where to look, I have seen many trees that fit our Legacy Tree categories. By nominating trees it allows us to make these trees known to our citizens and bring a bit of recognition to the owners of these trees,” said Roming.

Legacy Tree nomination forms and more information can be found at www.TempleTrees.org or by calling City Arborist Val Roming at 254.298.5401.

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